The Superfund Process at BNL

This updated diagram shows Brookhaven National Laboratory's progress through the many steps of the Superfund cleanup. One chart is for "removal actions" (right) and the other for "operable units" (below).

The Lab's cleanup is organized into six administrative segments, each representing a geographic area of the Lab site . The soil and groundwater in the "operable units" are investigated to see if past Lab practices have left contamination with the potential to impact human health and/or the environment. If contamination is found, BNL's Office of Environmental Restoration works with the federal, state and local officials, and the public, to determine the appropriate cleanup remedy.

A "removal action" occurs if contamination is found that could pose a threat to public health or the environment. The action is taken as quickly as possible to eliminate the potential threat. Five removal actions are complete and two are close to completion.

In the cleanup process, completion of a given step usually means the issuance of a major report. These reports are listed in quotation marks across the top section. Below are the actual or anticipated dates when regulators release these reports to the public. Future dates are scheduled in the "Schedules Document," which proposes the timetable for each operable unit and removal action.

These schedules, approved by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, are updated at least annually and may change based on the time needed to review and finalize draft reports. Also listed above the columns are the cleanup-related activities that do not result in major reports—sampling, analysis and evaluation of data and public participation—but play major roles in the cleanup process.

The completed reports listed here, as well as the Schedules Document, are available for public review as part of the "Administrative Record" of the BNL cleanup. Complete sets of the Administrative Record are available at the Lab's four information respositories (for locations, see page 7). Document summaries, meeting schedules and other public participation information can be also be found at the OER web site (www.oer.dir.bnl.gov).

REMOVAL ACTIONS

	Investigation/Study: "Work Plan" "Health & Safety Plan" "Sampling & Analysis Plan"	Investigation/Study: Field investigation, sampling & analysis data	Investigation/Study: "Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis"	Investigation/Study: Public participation, press releases, public notices, information meetings	Decision: "Action Memorandum" (Includes comments & responses in "Responsiveness Summary")	Design: Design phase of Remedial Action	Cleanup: Begin actual cleanup	Closure: "Closeout Report"
Removal Action I D Tanks	completed 7/91	Field work and evaluation	completed 7/93	On-going	completed 9/93	completed 8/94	8/94	DONE 12/95
Removal Action II 12 Underground storage tanks	completed 7/94		N/A		N/A	completed 3/95	7/95	DONE 4/96
Removal Action III Cesspools	completed 7/91		completed 2/94		completed 3/94	completed 4/94	7/95	**11/97***
Removal Action IV Bldg. 479 PCB soil remediation	completed 1/92		N/A		N/A	N/A	5/92	DONE 3/93 Immediate removal action
Removal Action V OU I Groundwater removal	completed 9/92		completed 12/95		completed 12/96	completed 5/96	5/96 Initiated public water hook-up 12/96 Initiated ground-water cleanup	DONE 12/96
Removal Action VI 1. Current landfill 2. Former landfill 3. Glass holes	completed 10/93		completed 4/95 Current & Former landfill closure completed 4/97 "Evaluation of Alternatives Report for Glass Holes"		1. completed 12/94 2. completed 7/95 3. completed 5/97	completed 7/94 completed 8/95 completed 11/96	5/95 5/96 5/97	DONE 6/96 DONE 3/97 **3/98***
Removal Action VII Bldg. 464 Mercury soil remediation	completed 7/94		N/A		completed 2/95	N/A	7/94	DONE 2/95 Immediate removal action

OPERABLE UNITS

	Investigation/Study: "Scope of Work"	Investigation/Study: "Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study/Work Plan" (Include "Sampling & Analysis Plan" "Health & Safety Plan")	Investigation/Study: Remedial Investigation (Field work)	Investigation/Study: "Remedial Investigation/ Risk Assessment Report"	Investigation/Study: Feasibility Study	Decision: "Feasibility Study Report" & "Proposed Plan"	Decision: Public participation, press releases, public notices, information meetings	Decision: Public meeting	Decision: Record of public comments & responses in "Responsiveness Summary" (Included In ROD)	Decision: "Record of Decision" (ROD)	Design: Begin design phase of remedial action	Action: Begin actual cleanup
Operable Unit I Hazardous Waste Management Facility and sitewide radiologically contaminated soils	completed 2/92	completed 10/93 OU I 7/94 OU VI	Field work and evaluation	completed 7/96	Alternative methods of cleanup examined	**12/97***	On-going	**12/97***	**4/98***	**4/98***	**Summer 98***	**Fall 99***
Operable Unit II Waste Concentration Facility, AGS scrap yards, former Low-Mass Criticality Facility, contaminated landscape soils	completed 12/94	completed 1/96		**12/97***		Evaluation of alternatives and cleanup transferred to OU I (To allow for a consolidated effort to clean up all site-wide radiologically contaminated soils.)						
Operable Unit III HFBR Tritium Potable/supply wells, spills, sewer pipes (in the central area)	completed 3/93	completed 10/94		**1/98*** Incorporates additional work on HFBR Tritium Plume		**2/98***		**2/98***	**8/98***	**8/98***	**Fall 98***	**12/99*** (Final remedy) Interim groundwater cleanup operational 6/97
Operable Unit IV Central Steam Facility, Reclamation Facility	completed 9/90	completed 12/91		completed 11/94 completed 11/95 addendum		completed 11/95		completed 12/95	completed 3/96	completed 3/96	5/96	**11/97*** Interim soil cleanup completed 1994
Operable Unit V Contamination related to Sewage Treatment Plant	completed 8/92	completed 3/94		**Fall 97*** Incorporates additional sampling/study of Peconic River		**1/98***		**Winter 98***	**8/98***	**8/98***	**8/98***	**4/00*** Imhoff tank cleanup completed early 1996
Operable Unit VI Ethylene dibromide (EDB) groundwater contamination	included with OU I			Included with OU I		completed 10/96 "Focused" Feasibility Study		completed 11/96	**Fall 97***	**Fall 97***	**Fall 97***	DONE 8/96 Public water hookups initiated 8/96

*** Anticipated dates**